

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 26, 2007, the Examiner objected to the specification for not including the full identification of the Depository and a description of the deposit. This same information is found later in the specification on page 9 in paragraph 4. With the present amendments the full address of the Depository is completed by adding the street address and the deposit is identified by the complete title on the deposit certificate where reference to the deposit first appears on page 2.

Claims 1 and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for not providing a sufficient written description. The Examiner objected that the identity of a virus claimed as "a CastV-2 that is able to induce antiserum that neutralizes the deposited virus" is not a complete description.

Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection as the examples provide a complete description of assays defining the chicken astrovirus type 2 claimed. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants now introduce the further description that the claimed virus must be able to induce antiserum having a neutralizing antibody titre greater than or equal to 128 against the deposited virus. Support for this limitation is found in Tables 1a, 1b and 2 on pages 12-14 of the specification.

Virus neutralization assays for avian astrovirus of the same type provide serum titres according to the assay methods provided of at least 128. In Table 2, in particular, where immunological relationships among CastV-2 strains is reported for the three strains tested, all showed a serum titre of at least 128. The virus VDU/AS2 was the specific strain deposited virus under Accession Number I-2932 (see page 9, paragraph 4).

In view of the above, it is believed that claims 1 and 4-10 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is solicited. Should the Examiner consider that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number below.

Applicants do not believe that any other fee is due in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicants do owe any such fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge

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the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **02-2334**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-2334**.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and request that it be allowed. The Examiner is requested to call the Undersigned if any issues arise that can be addressed over the phone to expedite examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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